

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Appln. No. 10/019,937

Amended
handover of calls from one satellite to another are predefined for each terminal.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that a call is handed over to another satellite ahead of time if said other satellite provides a communication capacity greater than that of the former satellite.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the terrestrial areas (20_i) are fixed.

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11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the resources allocated to a terminal for a satellite include a carrier frequency and a plurality of codes, especially Hadamard sequences, and/or time slots.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that a single system (72) for allocating resources (74) is provided in each terminal and/or the management station and said resources are duplicated during a handover period.

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14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, characterized in that zero power is allocated to signals on the second path before handover and zero power is allocated to signals on the first path after handover.

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16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, characterized in that the powers allocated to the duplicated cells or packets are monitored.

20. (Amended) A terminal according to claim 17, characterized in that it includes two directional antennas, one intended to be pointed toward one satellite and the other toward another satellite.

25. (Amended) A management station according to claim 22, characterized in that it includes a system for allocating the terminals carrier frequencies divided into non-contiguous subsets, two carriers from the same subset being chosen to hand over a call from one satellite to another.